

Recd. Feb'y. 8th 1851. (undate)

and 10th.

My dear Sir



I pronounced ~~you~~ ^{you} were in New York - but
I have not yet seen you. What will interest
you. I came through Princeton Saturday
with an audience going on a great
March & consequently was unable to devote
much time to the few plants that had
long enough allowed to exist - The
Scenery of our Route - the ~~weather~~ ^{weather} was in a
most barren one & except in the Intervalli
passes there was but little variety in
the Vegetation - I have collected all.
But the rapidity of the March would
allow & shall I glad to find that there
is any good thing around here -

We have not seen anything of Prof'
Torrey. I am sorry to find your ^{new} ~~new~~
is some misundertaking in regard to him.
I never heard of ~~him~~ until my visit to you
at Princeton - you must therefore account
me of all intention of displacing him -
The position which I hold in the institution
is one which I have used neither influence
nor management to obtain - a place which
at present at the time was without other

specimen - I state this because I learn
from Mr. Prattell that you have written
to Dr. Parry in relation to the matter & that you have written
to the Secretary of the Smithsonian in relation to
Dr. Parry & hope you do not consider
me as having disposed your friend -

If I find as I doubtless shall - fact
I find the gentleman you represent to be well
in the great plan to cooperate with
us in a field which is doubtless the
most in both - It regard Prof. Bigelow
I think he can attend to his little ob-
ligation in proper duties - My earnest
wish is that the expedition may be of
incalculable service to science & I trust I
will not sacrifice that to any selfish
consideration - Aside from the real worth
of the gentleman in question the fact that
he is a friend of yours - should entitle
him to my respect & regard -
is most for a subject which has given
me a little concern - I shall
be glad to receive from you any sug-
gestions in regard to operations here that
may be useful - If there are any other
ants in like numbers species which the
import of other fresh specimens will make

to be better investigated than they can
be in the dry - please direct my
attention to them - We have a most
capital draughtsmen whose services I
can command & I hope for a series
of plates which shall not be inferior to
anything yet published - It will
really give me great pleasure to have
you - With assurances of esteem &

Yours truly

George Thurber

Professor of Boundary Commissary
Pass del Norte - Texas

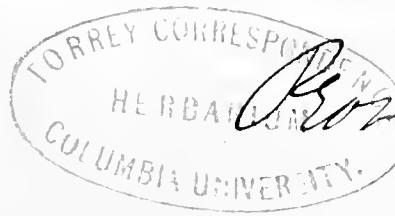


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And. No. 815



My dear Sir

I have picked out the Eriogonums from the portion of my collections that I have seen. & hope there may be something new among them. I have sent them all & would thank you to name them according to their numbers - If they are of any use to you you can keep them. as I have duplicates of all but one - marked I think "E. inflatum?" If this should prove to be that species I should like to have you save it for me as you already have it - I find I have but two specimens of megarrhiza Gal - of which I send you one - I am confident about the fruit opening when fully ripe as I had difficulty in finding ripe seed - the squirrels carrying them off as fast as they drop out - I find an other individual 951 - which may be of interest - also no 1002 a fragment of the only specimen sent - I take the "longuea" to be T. spinosa H. B. K. from the description in Miers Rept - it is a rather meagre specimen but it was just commencing to flower & exceedingly difficult to find flat leaves on the same branch - I carried the "red flag" into the fernery & green house of a

neighbor & procured some ferns for Herbert's
Harr's case - The masses of roots without ground
are Adiantum pedatum which with Lygodium &
Acrostichum all look quite pretty - The polypods
I've put in for sake of company - In the
same box with the ferns is a small package
of the minerals promised -

Upon consultation with my friend I have
concluded to apply for the position in the assay
offic. more with a hope that it may lead to
something more remunerative than for its immediate
pecuniary advantages - As a reference I enclose
a note from Hon Philip Allen. The head of the Democ-
ratic party here. A. S. Smather a wealthy man-
ufacturer - Should any others be needed I can fur-
nish them if you will indicate the character re-
quired. I do not send any testimony in regard
to experience in chemical matters as you did not
seem to think them necessary but I am at liberty
to refer to Dr T. P. Shepard our principal chemist here -

If the salary is not fixed by law it is arbitrary
with the City of New York. I could probably have it al-
tered through the influence of Mr Allen -
I should like to know as early as practicable if
the situation can be obtained as I shall not take
any measures to procure employment until I hear
from it - Should I be needed to assist you

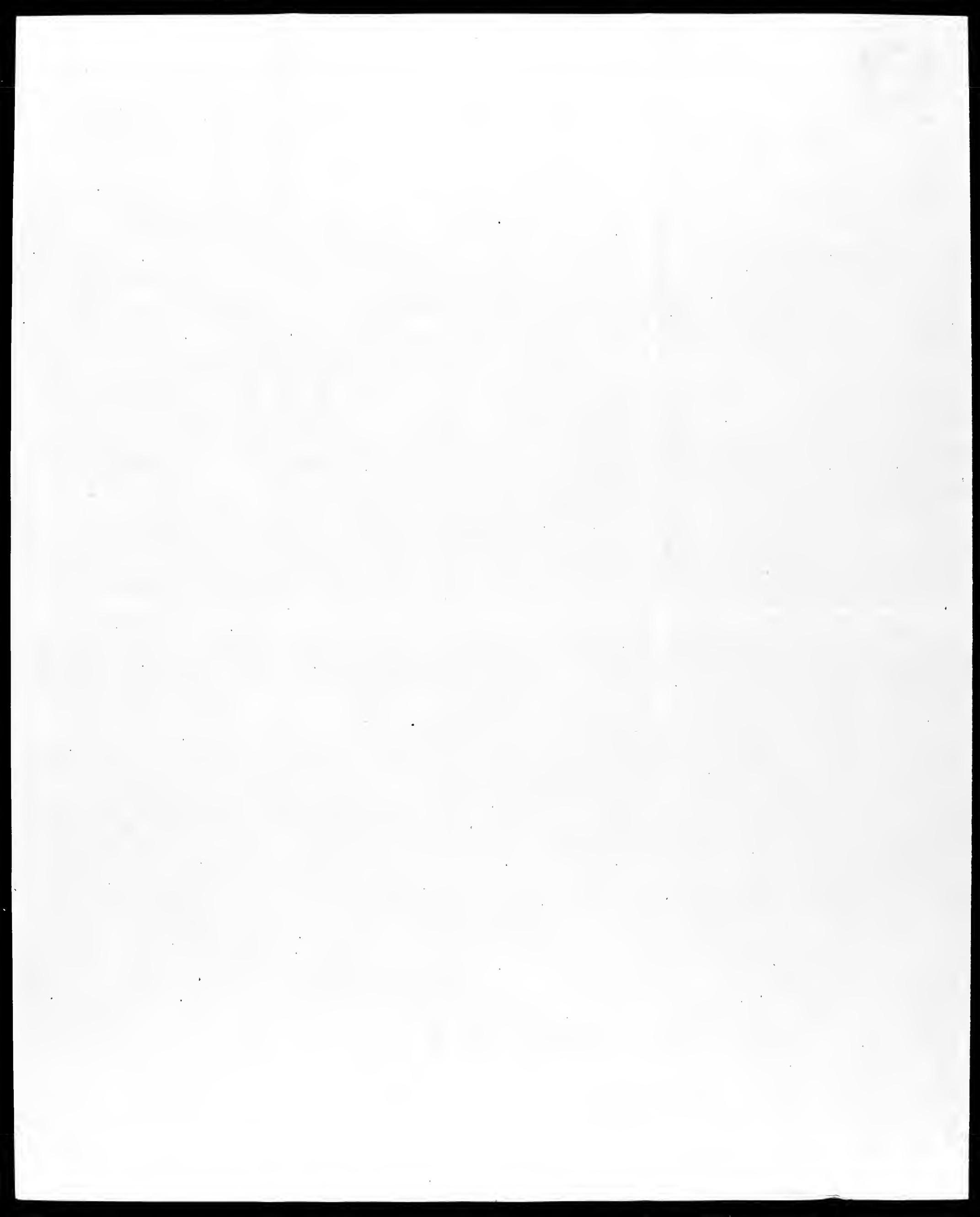
before the completion of the building I could go
on at short notice -

Hoping to hear from you soon I
remain very truly

George Threlkeld

D. J. Torrey
New York.





and probably
at Boston

Jan 20th 1853

Poor



My dear Sir

Your favor of the

20th is at hand - Unless
something happens to prevent
I will fill the place in
the assay office - though
I regret that the time
for commencing is so
long postponed -

You ask me if I have no
report to make or other work
to do for the commission -

It was decided that the
commission expired on the 1st of
January last & as I have
received no reappointment
I see no way of being remuner-
ated for labor - I have done
about a months work for
goit since I returned for which
I shall not get a cent & still
consider myself very lucky if
I receive what back pay is

due me - I agreed with
Mr Bartlett to furnish the
Commission with one suite
of any collections I thought
would best fit at liberty
to do what I please with
the remainder - it has always
been my intention to give your-
self & Dr Gray what you wished
& distribute the rest where they
would be best appreciated -

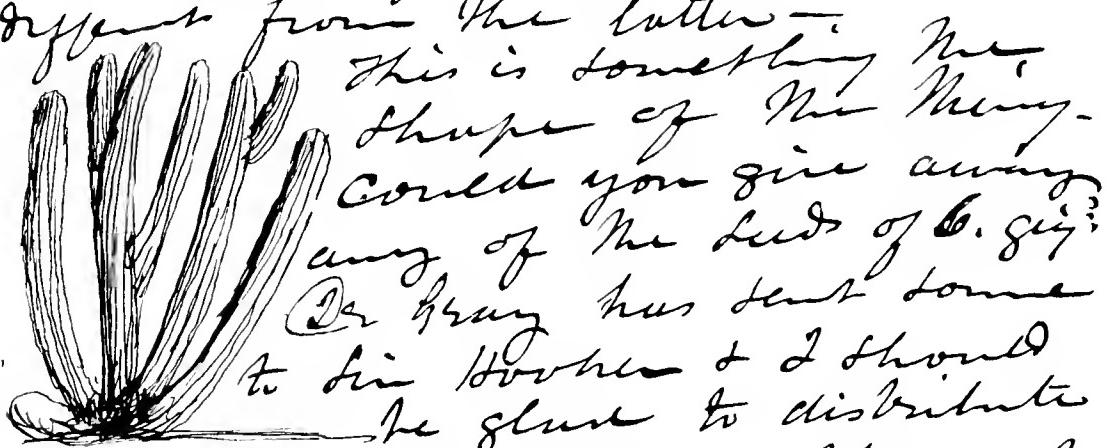
That portion of my collections
made in Sonora came to hand
entire & I also shipped suites
of a majority of the rest by
a conveyance by which they ar-
rived safely. But the bulk of
duplicates are still unshipped -

I rec'd notice a few days
ago that the vessel into which
they were transhipped was ex-
pected daily but I have no
positive information that my
packages were among the
things saved.

Of such plants as I have to
spare you can have duplicates
at once & of the others when they

arrive - I suppose Dr Gray has told you that several new genera have turned up among those I sent him -

I sent Dr Engelmann the materials of *Cereus giganteus* & he has prepared an article for Gillman's Journal - describing also a new *Cereus* as *C. Thurberi*. It grows in少年 with *C. gig* - about 10 or 15 ft high but very different from the latter -



This is something like the shape of the thing - Could you give away any of the seeds of *C. gig*? Dr Gray has sent some to Sir Hooker & I should be glad to distribute the remainder before they get too old - I will try to send down to Cambridge while you are there -

Is there any work on assuring that it would be well for me to be familiar with? -

Very truly & gratefully yours
George Thurber
Dr John Torrey }
New York }





Ans Feb 3d

Providence January 30th 1857



My Dear Doctor

After many delays I have at length obtained possession of my delinquent packages - There seems to have been a conspiracy of the fates against me for the steamer which brought them from New York broke down, of course, & was two days behind her time - never ship merchandise in the same bottom with anything of mine if you wish to get it in a hurry -

You may imagine the interest with which I opened the parcels to learn their state & the pleasure with which I discovered that the specimens were not much injured - With some few exceptions they scarcely suffered from dampness but the principal injury is from rubbing, though considering that they have been shaking about for some eight months this is not as great

as might be anticipated -

Capt. Gray writes me that the angular shrub which yourself & he set down as a superstated Ledum turns out to be a new relative of your favorite Ericyonums - After you left Cambridge we found that it was not a Ledum - Dr G. says that he sent it to you to forward to Mr Bentham & throws himself upon my generosity for more - I have enough to supply you both & I enclose a small one & will send you a letter to forward by stage - What is his name? or is that left to Bent. This plant comes from a region which I regret I had to short a time at - San Felipe - it is just where the proper California vegetation - that of the Coast - ends & we enter upon the borders of the desert - within a short distance of each other I found the Zizyphus (kylycapon?) Simmondsia - a new Pyrodia, the Rutosma, or Thunnessia / this rose by any other name would smell as sweet / & some other things - Near here, coming eastward, we fall in with Algarobia, Prosopis & the everlasting Salsarae - Apropos de Larrea - May-

Emory is mistaken in saying that it can "hardly be made to burn". At El Paso it is the most common "oven wood" The Mexicans use it for heating their large clay ovens & it used to be a common saying with us that we could always tell Saturday by the smell -

It is, as you may suppose, quite a job to unite the different divisions of my collection & get the materials in order - I have gone through with the Polysets & Compositae but beyond there is a "tierra desconocida" which I am timid about entering -

How shall I know what to send you? - Of course you have a large majority of the plants from other sources -

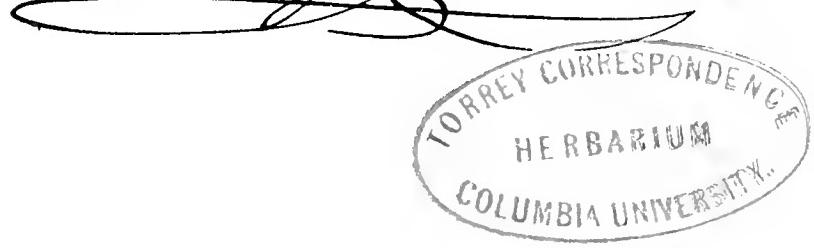
What do you make of the Spragueish thing sent by mistake among the Eriogys? - I find I have four specimens of it left. but they all look very young -

I have beautiful specimens of Colea spinosa - and of the Rockerlinia looking bush & fruit good fruit -

How do you progress in chimney building & other assay office matters? - I think that I stated before that after I had taken out a set of plants for the Govt & one for myself. Both

were at liberty to forage upon them -
with sincere regard

Fully yours George Thurber



What is this?

from San Blas one side.

Pterostegia

Providence June 6th 1854-



My Dear Sir.

The illness and decease
of a dear mother have so engrossed
my mind for some time that I
have hardly given a thought to anything
else. My attention has been called
to a list of appointments in the assay
office that has been published, but as
it contains but one assistant in the
Assayor's department I infer that the
place I am looking for has not yet
been filled.

My desire to remain near home is now
stronger than ever and I hope that
the new Superintendent or whoever
it rests with may be disposed to
give me the situation.

Should any question respecting character
& antecedents arise I can bring

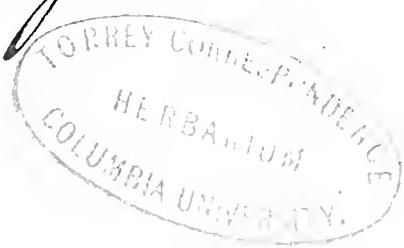
satisfactory testimonials, meanwhile
I enclose to you a letter which was
sent me by Prof. Bailey when I was
about leaving in the Boundary Com.
I value it especially as it came
unlooked for and unsolicited -
I hope you will not consider that
I am pushing this matter beyond
propriety. I should have waited
patiently until I heard from you
had I not been requested to make
an engagement which would oc-
cupy me a week, beginning the 20th.
Of course I do not wish to promise
my services without first ascertaining
if there is any probability of my
being called off before or about
that time -

Mr Otway has recently returned from
the South & is at present presiding
over the Blue Pot - for the Suds

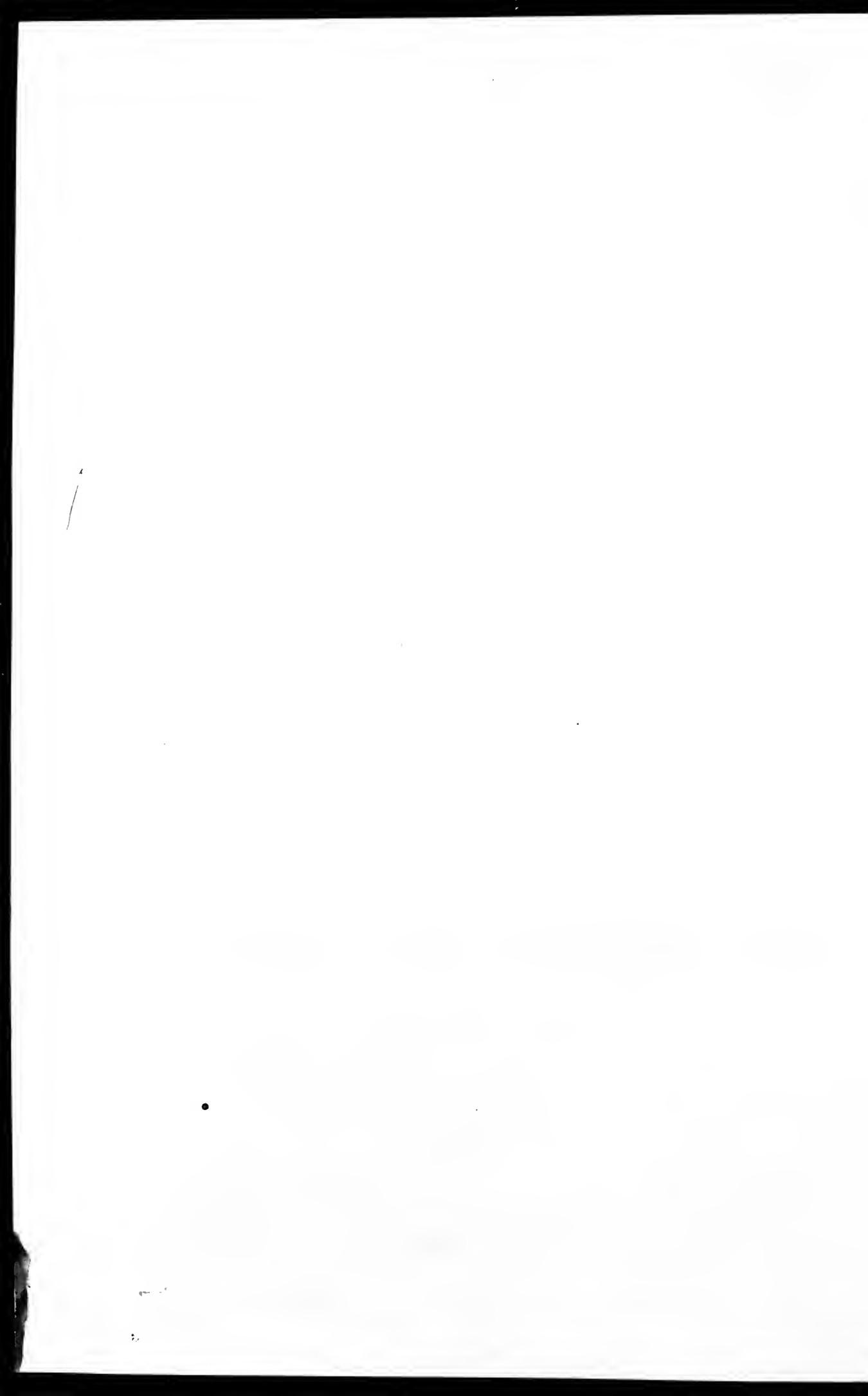
reasons above given I have botanized
none myself.

Very truly yours

George Thurber



Dr John Torrey
New York 3





Providence June 24th 1884

My dear Sir

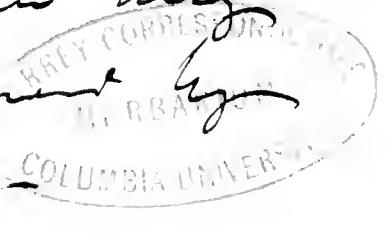
Your kind favor of
2/2^d was duly received -
I regret that you should meet with
any opposition in carrying out your
wishes respecting the appointment of
your assistants - You were kind enough
to offer me the place in the assay
office and I very much wish to
get it, but, I wish you distinctly to
understand that if it will embarrass
you to appoint me or if it will
~~shall~~ at all interfere with your
relations with the higher powers, that
you will not press my case to your
own injury - Of this you can of course
judge for yourself & whatever may
be the result I shall ever feel ob-
liged to you for the disposition you
have shown to aid me -

It is not easy - as you suggest
to find many here who are in
favor with the administration. The
most prominent Democrats, such
as Dr Wayland & others have taken
ground in open opposition to the Ne-
braska bill & their good word might
in the present instance prove an
injury - I will send early in the
coming week testimonial from
the few whose influence would
avail anything - but unfortunately
there are but few outside of the
Post Office & Custom House who are
not offensive in the eyes of the
present powers -

I rec'd a letter from
Dr Gray yesterday - he wishes to pub-
lish the new genera & species in my
collection - I shall be governed by
the advice of yourself & him

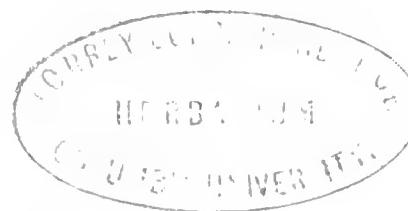
Very truly yours

George Thurber



Wm. B. D.

[1854?]



Doct. Torrey
Dear Sir -

You will perceive
by the enclosed prospectus that
our Society gives a course of
lectures this winter - We have
nearly completed our arrangements
lacking but two lectures - Thinking
you may be able to assist in
supplying this deficiency I take
the liberty to inquire if you know
of any popular & interesting lecturer
who we could engage to give two
brilliant lectures upon some ~~to~~ what
chemical subject capable of
striking illustration - This being our

first experiment with a course
of this kind it is desirable to
season it a little in the manner
referred to - if you can put us in the
way of engaging some such person
to come sometime in January - perhaps -
you will greatly oblige

Very truly yours

George Thruska



Philadelphia
July 20th 1858

Dear Doctor Torrey.

I must tell you what a capital time I have had since I have been let out to graft. Durand has been over all his grapes with me & we have - to use his phrase - perused a portion of the Herbarium of the academy. He gives me desirable things where they are divisible & when not he loans me the specimen bodily, whether his own or the academy's. All my grapes about Muttall's Gamble

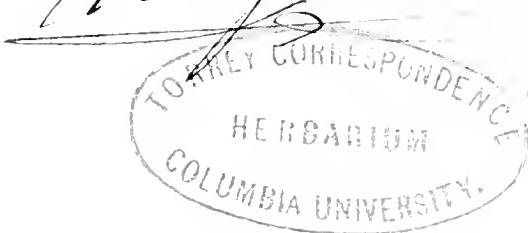
things were correct - & he will
have but one of his several
new genera left - I fear
your *Vilfa utilis* will be
inutilis - (I recollect I am in
Phila.) for Nutt. is ahead of
you - He. (Nutt.) is a great
fellow to double on himself
& I frequently find the same
thing marked as two or three
different species with an *.
I begin to think Nutt does
know quite as much about
grasses as anybody. This
evening went to the Academy
& met a number of the
working members thereof.
Le Conte Jr. wished to be
remembered to you, he goes
tomorrow to Cambridge and
will call & see you as he
returns. Somebody here is
reproducing Michaux's *Sylvae*

With an extra volume
by one Smith.

Tomorrow I go to see Dr.
Gurleyton & as I have
not finished at the Acat-
emy, will not be able to
return before Friday

Very sincerely

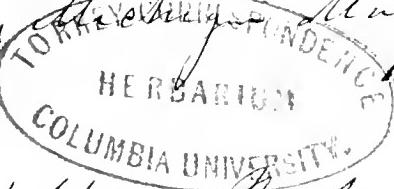
George Thurber



Cherry
egg long wof fog

Rec'd May 17.

State Agricultural College
Lansing, ~~TORRENTIA INDEPENDENCE~~ May 12, 1860.
My dear Doctor Torrey



I suppose that you think I have been rather remiss about writing you. My silence has not been because I have not thought of it, but because I saw that things were approaching a crisis here & I hoped soon to be able to write you a more favorable account of my situation than I could at any former time or can even now. My position here has its pleasant and its reverse sides. Its unpleasant side has been & is now the great uncertainty about money matters.

The State Treasury is absolutely bankrupt. The present administration in order to stand well with the people acted upon the very unsafe principle of large appropriations and small taxes - The result, which might have been foretold, is, that there is no money. As the means for carrying on the College come from specified sources & those taxes not coming all due till next spring we have no money - The Treasurer requires to advance from

other funds & we have not a
dollar for any purpose whatever.
I managed to get just of the freight
of my things paid out of the treasury,
as was agreed upon before hand, but
not a cent of salary & have been
obliged to borrow for the current ex-
penses - You may imagine that this
state of things is not calculated to
make one very joyous. A meeting
of the State officers will be called to
see if they will authorize a loan
& if they will not the thing must
"burst up" & stop. The state administra-
tion is in the hands of the Republicans
who being anxious for a renomination
will be very timid about incurring
a debt - & it will be a question as to
which will most favor their political
interests in the coming state convention.
We are all in doubt about the
result with interest, so much for
the dark side of the picture. As to
the other - I can say that my asso-
ciates in the faculty are all that
I could desire, gentlemanly & genial.
We work together most harmoniously
& I see no chance for any conflict
of interest (until perhaps they put a
president over us -). All the former

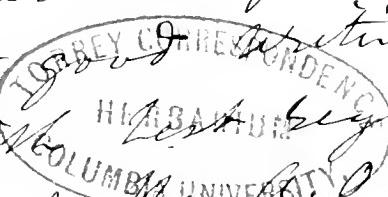
faculties have been quite the reverse
of this, split up by quarrels to the
degree that it has seldom that all
hands were even on speaking terms.
With regard to the boys, these are about
50- and as unromising a set, if one
were to judge from their looks, as
could be congregated anywhere.
They are alone the average human
in the class room and in my de-
partments I am much pleased
with them - ~~the~~ ^{MORREY CORNELL} ~~have~~ ^{have} any trouble
with the boys & ~~they~~ ^{they} seem much attached
attached to all of us. They have under
former administrations been worried &
scolded & treated like children - some
of the former profs being ex-schoolmasters
but now, being treated as if they were
gentlemen, they behave as such. One
can in a little while find how he
stands in the estimation of his classes
& I think I can say (without being)
open to the charge of self-glorification
that the good opinion I have prepared
of them is reciprocated. I have 2
classes in Botany, one of 8 in system-
atic Botany and one of 14 in the rud-
iments. I think that I have quite a
number of the botanists of the future
on the stocks - some real enthusiasts.
More than half the number are actually

in love with the subject - and this
you must allow is a large propor-
tion for a study that is required
of them. I find that Brady gave
them nothing in the world but detective
bits of Microscopy, both in plants & ani-
mals - having no reference to any
thing - mere optical exhibitions. One
of the boys told me the other day that
they used to "cuffyle" (Michigan for
rumble) Brady with all sorts of ex-
cuses to get out of class, but that
now there wasn't a ^{TORREY CORRESPONDENCE}
boy who would
stay away. Indeed ^{I have had no}
absences but from sickbed. ^{HERBARIUM}
^{COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.} You
must not think that I am taking
on airs - I have supposed you
would be interested in my success
and I don't know what else I could
do but say that I am succeeding.
I volunteered to take Mineralogy, wishing
to renew an old acquaintance. I
have a class in that twice a week,
and besides this, in order to avoid the
expense of another prof. I have in
common with the others taken a study
out of my department. I have the
Elements of Natural Philosophy - As
there is a very good set of apparatus
I rather like it, but it takes too
much time. Indeed I never worked

under than I have done here.
I have had hardly time to read the
papers & keep the sum of your hu-
manious democracy. As for voluntary
work - I havent done ~~any~~^{BIRNEY CORRESPONDENCE} much - I
must begin now ~~now~~^{COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY} I shall
not after this week ~~now~~^{COLLEGE OF} much
out of door work to ~~look~~^{do} after. The
grounds around the college have
been laid out for my gratification
& I have had to oversee a good
part of it. The boys are rather
surprised to see a New Yorker not
afraid to put his hands into the
earth. The students are required
to work three hours daily. I think
if you could see how well it op-
erates here you ~~had~~ objections to man-
ual labor colleges would be removed.
They take as much interest in the
work as they do in their studies.
They do whatever is required of them
cheerfully & well. I had the best boy
one who is looked at by the rest as the
leader, carrying money for me today -
as I am "doctored" here I have to doctor
in return. My practice is of the safest
kind. One boy came yesterday with his
troubles - Prescription - Tigs 1^d to be
taken pro re nata - Another who had
been soaking the life out of him with
wet sheets was prescribed dry ones & a tonic.

As my prescriptions have been thus far attended with benefit I get what falls to most practitioners in the early days of their career - lots of gratitude. Had it not for the uncertain condition of things entirely without one control I should be quite contented. As it is I hope all will result favorably. I hope you will not speak of what I have written of the troubles except to my particular friend. You may imagine from the amount of work I have on hand that I have not been able to collect very largely. Indeed until this morning there has not been much that was very desirable, I took a tramp today & found several things that I never saw growing before. *Hydrostachys*, *Viola Canadensis* & *rostrata* - ^{Appinged-} *imperialis*. *Smilacina trifolia* - *Dicentra Canadensis*. *Phlox* - probably *divaricata* - &c. I forgot in speaking of the unpleasant features to state that the boys here, with I believe one single exception, are Republicans of the blackest kind. They have a Tribune Club & that mischievous sheet is sapping the youthful mind with its disunion doctrines - You would have been around

at the interest taken in the doings of
the Charleston convention. One of
the mornings when this was in session
I was out in the fields; the smallest
boy in the college came across to
intercept me to ask if there was a
nomination. He couldn't wait two hours
for the news. It wouldn't be safe for
any of the ~~Charleston~~ Chicago delegates
to visit me if Seward isn't nominated.

I believe that I have given you
as much of my delightful chirio-
raphy as you can decipher in a
week - If you have a failing it
is inability to read ~~GOOD CORRESPONDING~~

Remember me ~~with~~ ^{HIBERNIA} regards to
all the faithful at ~~THE~~ UNIVERSITY. &
your family, not forgetting the
quadrupedious portion thereof
as ever very truly

George Thurber

P.S. I recd a lot of the Proceedings of Cal. Nat.
Sciens - I send you one - Tell Miss Elyja
that my transition state prevented me
from replying to her note - I cannot
give any countenance to Miss Shaw until
next fall - Doubtless shall be attended to
in due time.

Over -

If I don't seal this letter pretty
soon I shall be late for Chapel
in the morning - I would add that
I must part you up to the Dodge
about the signed glue that is so
extremely adhesive - Cook glue until
soft - melt in its "water of absorption"
& add $\frac{1}{5}$ of volume of strong acetic
acid - If you haven't tried it you
will find it the best of all the
Glues Stickum tight.



State Ayl. College
Baroding, Mich. June 16th/60,



Dear Dr. Torrey

A day or two after I wrote

you I rec'd your welcome letter.
I hoped to be able to give you an
account of the E. & S. grasses soon
after I came here - but the promised
cases are not made & my herbarium
is about useless. I have so temporized
some shelves for the most needed
things & have given every moment I
could spare during the present week
to them - Please send me the form in
which the other material is drawn up
& let me know how extended the synonymy
is to be - Before the matter is printed I
shall wish you to go over some of the
species but will wait till you can do
a number at a job. If you knew
the disadvantages under which I work
you would not think me neglectful
of your wishes - If I try to do anything
in the evening it takes me half my time
to kill mosquitos - you cannot go a
half mile in any direction without coming
to an impenetrable swamp where the
stagnant water breeds these vermin with
most carnivorous propensities. They are
everywhere, like the frogs of Egypt - Today
(Saturday) I thought I would have a whole
day to myself but running after little boys
has very much broken it up. This is

a miserably unhealthy locality & though
the "sickly season" has not begun it is often
that I have 3 or 4 absent from a class
of 8, on account of illness. I have packed
the boys off home to Escanaba. I lose about
one day in the week myself & am half
sick the rest of the time. Billions trouble
prevail & I don't like to think what a
time we shall have here in August -
I wrote you in my last the most un-
conveying account that circumstances
would admit of. I have no fault to
find with the faculty & the students they
are both quite as I could wish - but the
powers above us treat us with absolute
neglect. The Governor was here a few
weeks ago & said that the members of
the administration would meet the 1st
of this month in Detroit & see what could
be done for us. They met & didn't "see" any-
thing but to see who would get renominated.
So we shall know nothing until late in
July when they meet again. Then I
have no confidence in the permanence
of the institution. There is a strong
influence at work against it from
the University at Ann Arbor. If any
money is to be given for such purposes
they wish it. It is currently reported,
with what truth I don't pretend to know
enough of local matters to judge, that
the Dept. of Public Instruction who lives
at Ann Arbor is under this influence
& wishes to break up the college.

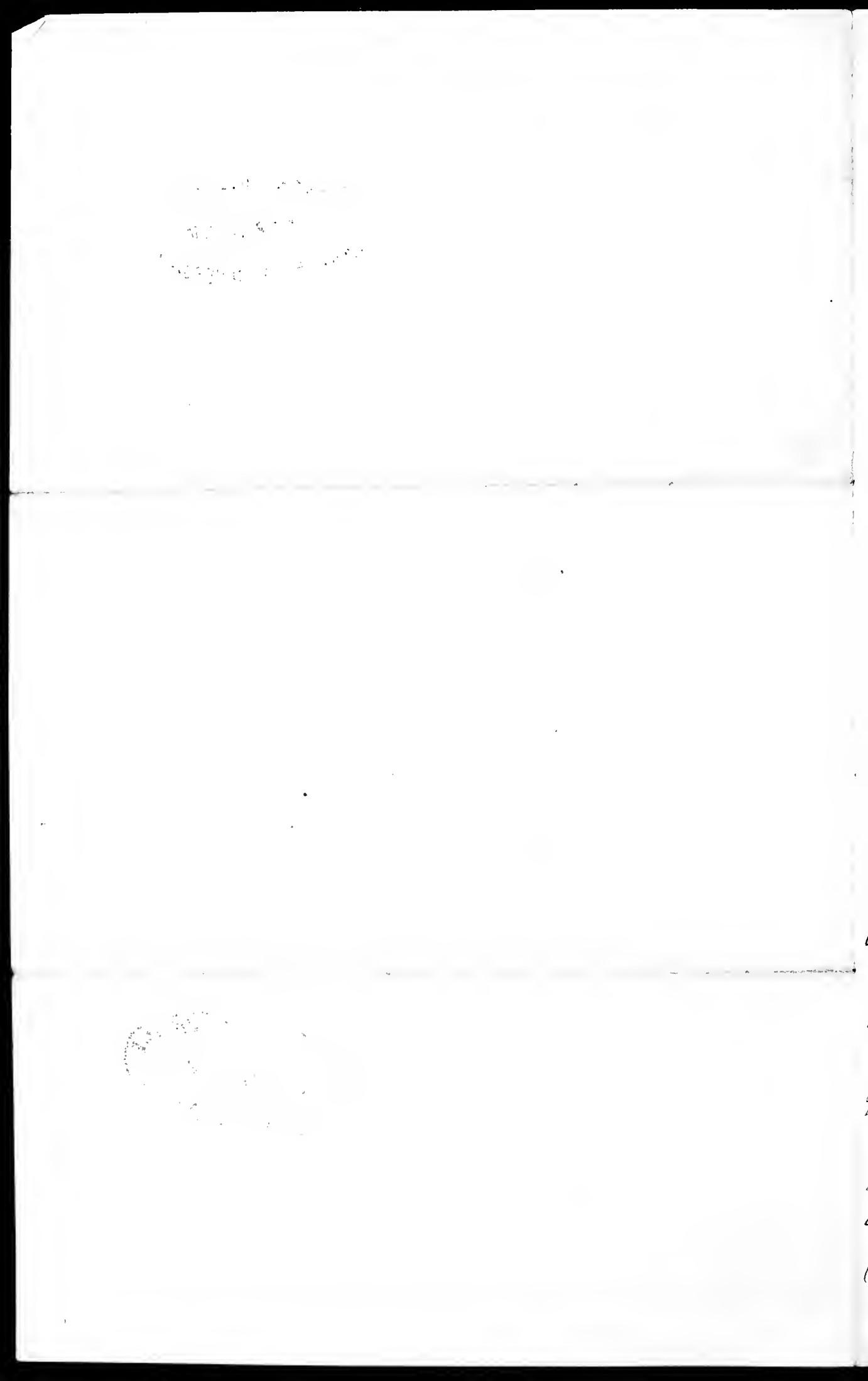
If we had not disregarded his instructions this spring we should not have had ten students. Under all these disagreeable circumstances you cannot wonder that I desire to get away from here as soon as possible - I soiled myself from civilization in the hope of a sure though moderate pay & thinking that I might find compensation in this & profit in a fair share of leisure. Neither of these hopes are realized. I have no time to myself for the poverty of means & paucity of teachers we all go out of our departments & I don't think I ever worked so hard in my life - Teaching is pleasant but too much is drudgery. If you see any chance where a moderate living can be had within civilization or completely out of it I wish you would let me know.

Buchanan has written to me to ask why I don't apply for a situation in the new Botanic Garden. I see that your friend Mr. Stark is one of the names mentioned in connection with it & you probably can learn of their plans. I am willing to work or travel. I suppose however that an American will stand a poor chance beside a French or German botanist. Have just received Chapman's book from Gray - It looks very nicely. It is very pleasant to get a glimpse of something from the East.

Ever truly yours

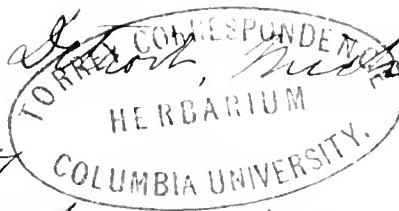
George Thurber





Recd. Aug 22

and Aug 22-24



Aug 18. 1860.

Dear Doctor Torrey

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

You will probably wonder how I happen to be here. We have a summer recess of a week at the college & nothing to rusticate a little during that time. I accepted the invitation of the father of one of our sick boys to make him a visit at his residence, which is about half the distance, staid there several days and then came on to do up various errands for myself & neighbors. At last that efficient body known as the State Board of Education has bid a drop to keep us from absolute want. - Eight hundred dollars to divide among those whose demands are over three thousand! - just enough to pay board bills & a few dollars over with no satisfaction for the future. The whole thing is ~~now~~ contemptibly

inefficient that I have no patience
in thinking of it. For some time
I have had warnings of Fever & Aye
& while on the visit, just mentioned,
the thing itself came. As Tom Tit says
(supposing you to have read Dred) "I've got a
'sperience on dat ar" - Just imagine
every individual bone in your body cut into
nick pieces, with a current of pain, each
hastier than the other, running through
in different directions with a little con-
striction wherever the connection is brok-
en & you have a fair notion of the
aye. Then you have the fever & the
two are like the Irishman's two roads,
"when you have travelled half way on
either you will wish you had taken
the other". The whole leaves you feeling
like a wrung out dish cloth with a
bushel basket for a head. Excuse
technicalities, if I were not writing
to an M.D. I would try to popularize

The description. As soon as I was able
to move I came here & consulted Doct.
Pitcher, who fed on quinine. I have
taken enough to make me bark before
long, if I don't bite. The ague season
has just begun & Doct. P. says that from
the indications there will probably be
a large crop - a prospect which I,
with my tendency to ~~clarity~~^{TORREY CORRESPONDENCE} troubles, do
not relish. I have ~~had~~^{HERBARIUM} in an ounce
of quinine & a corresponding amount
of the coeruleum mass, in view of
a state of siege. Doct. Pitcher has
been exceedingly kind to me - He says
that I ought to be at Ann Arbor & that
he will see if there is any chance for
a botanist - I wish you could judge
him on that point. I feel that I
cannot stay permanently at Lansing,
surely not if his attack is often
repeated - The other place is old &
healthy & they have a large endowment.

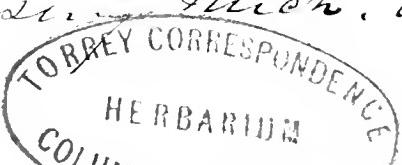
They have a Prof. there who does
the Mineralogy, Geology, Zoology
& Botany - is the State Geologist &
is making a State Survey & wants
the Chemistry besides! - Doct.
P. says he doesn't know anything
about either of these little subjects.
I should, I think, like much to have
the Botany & Mat Medica there.

Even the slightest glimmer through
the words gives me hope that I
shall get out of them somehow.

I passed a pleasant evening with
Capt. Whipple & Doct. Bigelow. The
latter is here as a meteorological
observer for the State Survey. Both
wished to be remembered to you. It
is the first time that I have seen
Bigelow since the Boundary days,
he seems to be in very good spirits
& has worn off all those ~~old~~ ^{old} difficulties that
afforded us so much amusement &
I had a laugh over your ~~old~~ ^{TORREY CORRESPONDENCE} letter,
complaining of the loss of one
that I had already safely in my
possession. As soon as I get to the
college & am well enough, will
send some grass notes.

Ever very truly George Thaxter

Agricul. College
Sauk City, Mich. Aug 27, '60



Dear Doctor Torrey

In my ~~university~~, from

Detroit I told you that I was quite ill with ague. Since I returned I have been quite well till today - tomorrow is the dreaded 14th day after the first attack & every "zone" in my body is informing me of it. I hope I may stave it off for I have quite satisfied my curiosity in the ague line. As soon as the sun is fairly down a dense white fog comes creeping over the ground, the strangest fog extending only 15 or 20 feet upward but so thick that you cannot see across the road. When this is about you can smell all the vegetation that ever was smelted. Go out in it & your hair is dripping & clothes quite moist. In the morning every thing is reeking with moisture & one cannot go about with comfort till the middle of the forenoon when it is oppressively hot. This has been repeated every day, except when it rained, for nearly two months. I send you a list of a part of the L. S. sp. grasses. I have worked at others but

This is as far as we list to con-
tinuous. I wish I had your
herbarium near by for a few
days to settle some things. I would
like you to go over there & see if
you have any better disposition
to make of any of them. In
this mere memorandum I of course
do not put synonyms - these I
will include when I write out the
notes finally - Many of the Speci-
mens are unnumbered, in these
cases I have quoted the labels,
the originals of which you have.
Our horrid foes are all agoy because
they expect to hear the naughty Mr
Seward next week. This irrepressible
man & the reprehensible Cassius
McClay together with the audacious
Boreyoy are to be at Lansing & it
is expected that 50 thousand of
the benighted people will counter-
ance the doings of these agitators
& disorganizers - I am afraid that
with these influences so near
me I shall fall away from
the true democratic faith -

I am getting very uneasy here. I
have so much that is discour-

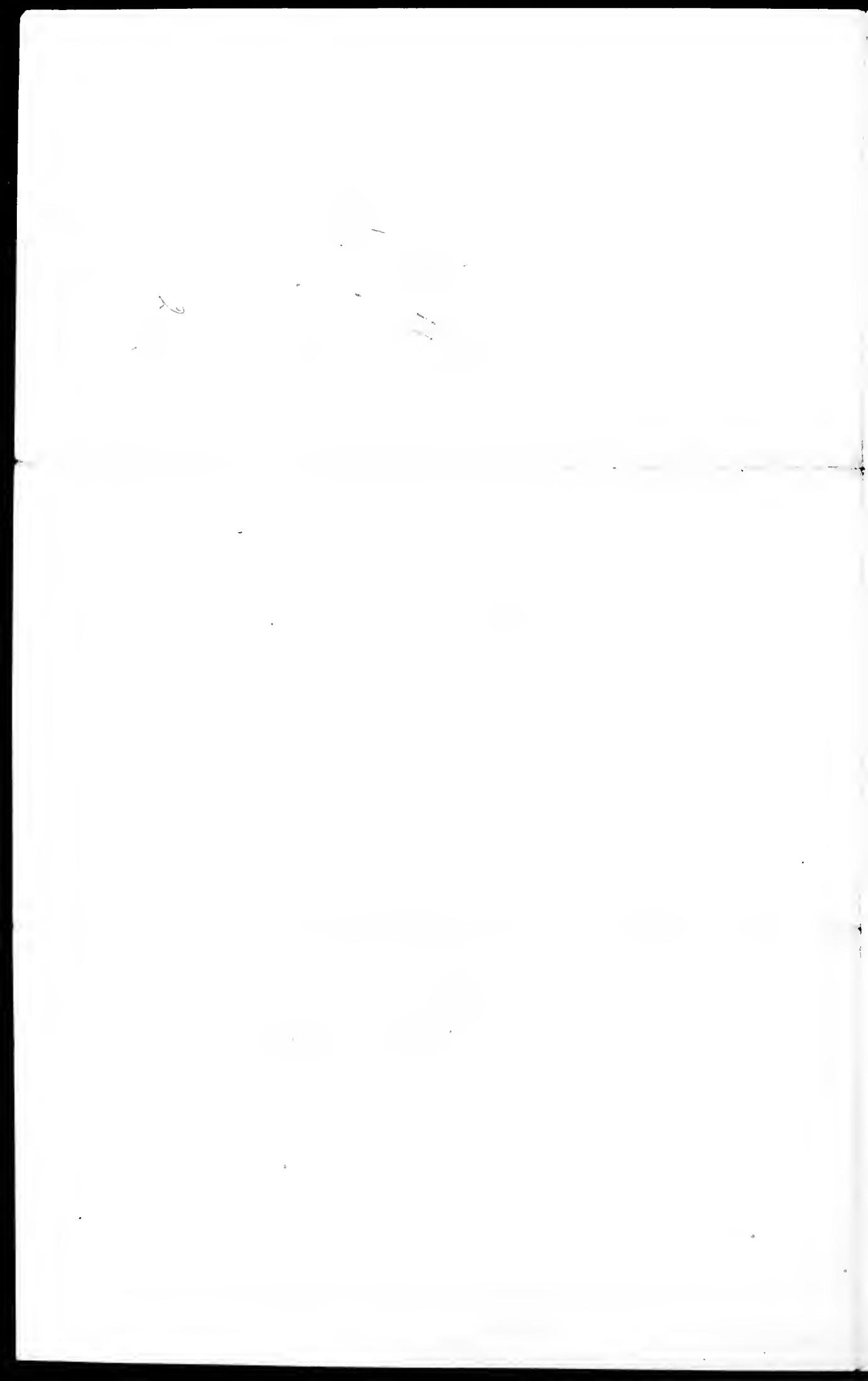
aying about the future prospects
of the concern - the people attached
to it think that it must go on,
but outsiders think that the
legislature will not appropriate.

The Democratic papers have it
done - the past management gives
them plenty of capital & the chief
trouble about their charges is that
they are true - on the other hand
the Republican papers say but
little in its favor - It is a one
horse concern any way - You
may think it queer that I men-
tion politics as associated with a
college, but politics pervade every-
thing here - it breaks up families
& people don't visit their neighbors
if they go to "other church".

It may be that the same hints
make me a little snarly - so I'll
stop - I only heartily wish I was
out of it.



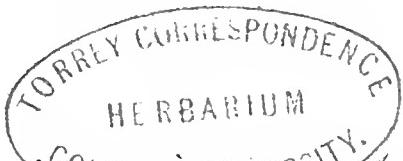
George Thurber



Rec'd Sept. 14

Agl. College Lansing,
Mich. Sept. 10. 1866.

Dear Doct. Torrey



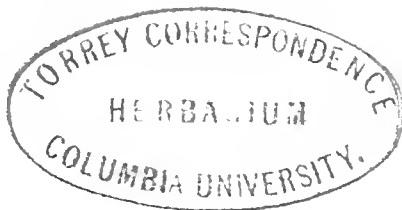
If it ~~will~~ be troubling you too much about my affairs I would like to consult with you about a matter which has recently turned up. There has been a reorganization of the 13th St Med. College & I can probably have the Botany & Nat. Med if I wish it. The College of Pharmacy wish me to come back there & if the two classes together would make ~~the~~ pay anything respectable I might be disposed to try it. The College of Pharmacy give me \$200 - last year & probably would do the same this season. Of course I should do as Dorennus does & have both classes in one. What I wish of you is, in the first place to tell me if you think the course advisable - whether being connected with an institution that has had so many changes & not perhaps held the highest rank would be to my advantage. Then I would like you to ascertain from Dorennus what would be the probable income & outgo in that department.

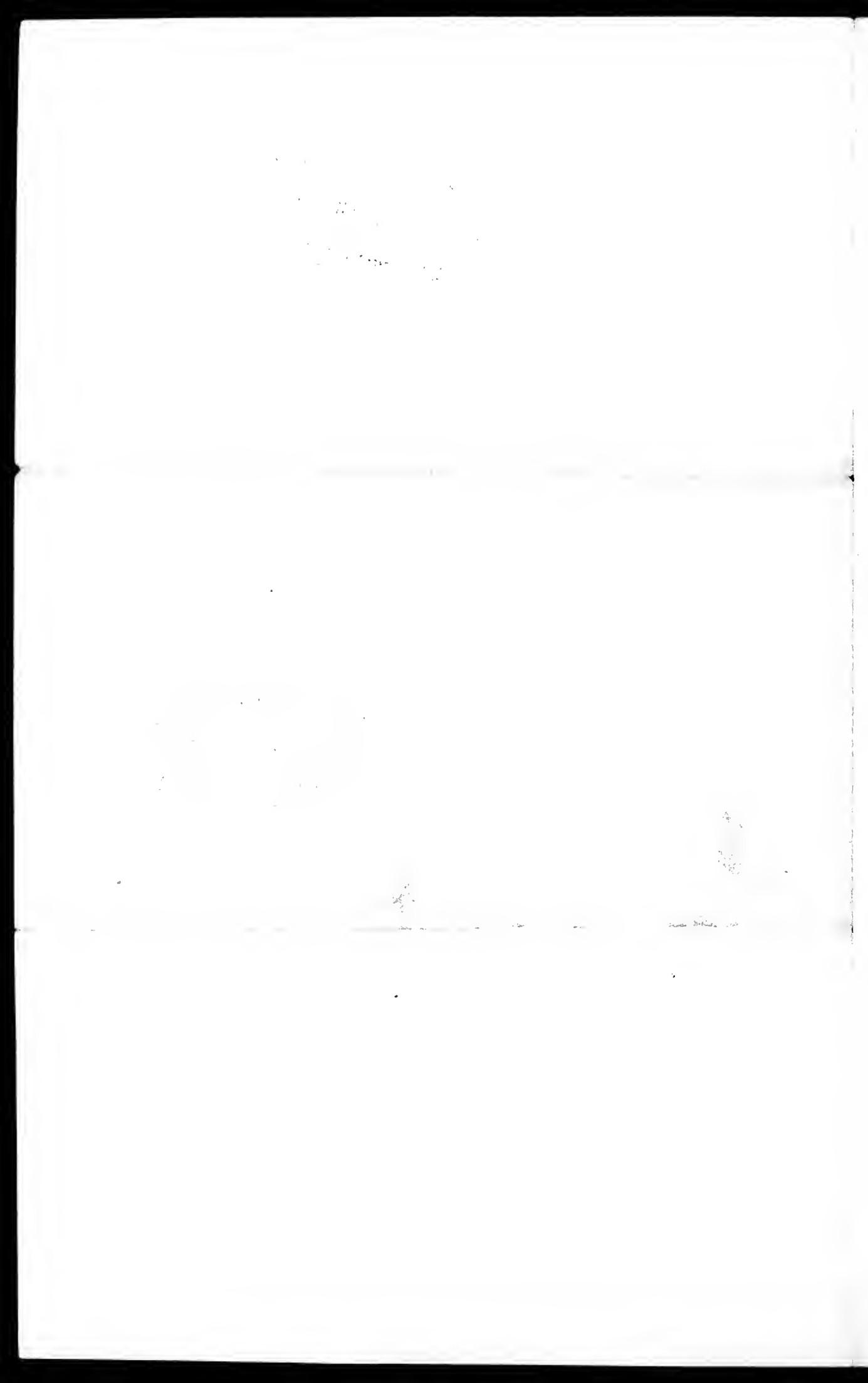
Dr. Meredith Reese told Meakin
that I could have it if I wished.
Mr. Reese, has recently associated him-
self with the College. I do not know
what his standing is in the profession.
It may be well if you have any
concernation upon the subject to have
it distinctly understood that I take
only Materia Medica & Pharmacy with
Botany as an adjunct - treating the
substances as objects of natural history
& in short giving just that which
medical students need & nobody gives.
Herapeutics I have nothing to
do with. It has been my hope
to be able to live quietly in New
York during the coming winter &
finish up the catalogue upon which
I have expended so much time
& work. But I do not see that
our money affairs will here will
materially improve this year & this
winter will probably decide the fate
of this institution with the legislature,
it will either be abandoned or put on
a respectable footing. I regret much
to be obliged to defer my catalogue
but I do not see how I can get

along this winter without doing
something remunerative. I was
obliged to hire money to enable me
to remove here, which would have
been paid had I been paid.

Then I had to give Peter Cooper a
note for \$100- for rent. These things
must be paid if I can find any
way to do it. If you will see
Doremus or Reese at an early
day & learn what are the pros-
pects here I shall be very glad.

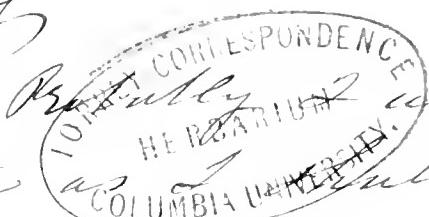
Very truly George Thurber



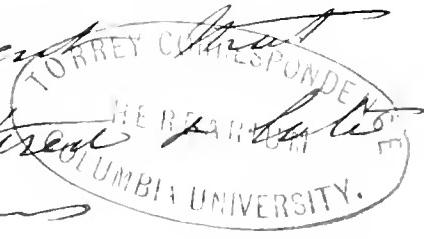


State Ayl College
Lancaster Miss May 1861

Dear Dr. Torrey



much settled now as
have 60 students & more are com-
ing. That's not known how we
will fare for money until the
Board meets, which will be in
3 weeks. The Horticultural dep't.
is placed under me & that with
one class daily gives me just as
much as I can attend to. I
have one of the seniors for an
assistant who gives me a great
deal. Am making extensive ex-
periments in germination of beans
beans & others of your favorites.
On Saturday I was sitting in a cellar
on a pork barrel seriously discussing
with my assistant which & how many
potatoes should be planted Yester-
day. The thought soon crossed
me that if you were to look in
upon us & see the scene you
would be highly amused & you broke
out into a hearty laugh, must

to the other's dismay - Horrible
weather cold winds & killing
frosts - Have a letter from
Mr. Wigand concerning the Ass't.
Assayorship of San Francisco -
I have asked him some ques-
tions about it. It strikes me about
half favorably - I would like to
know if he is as peculiar as he
was when he held the place before.
The most that I know of him is
from a strange address that he
published. When he was there
before I believe they worked in
the assay Dept. till late in the
evening - If this is the case I should
not go - I don't care to give up
travelling for more pay.
Write me what you think of the
matter - Tell Herb. that the
trees are here & planted - ask
him if he has the bill. as I don't
think that all we sent ^{TO TORREY CORRESPONDENT}
have arrived - Very truly yours

as ever yours

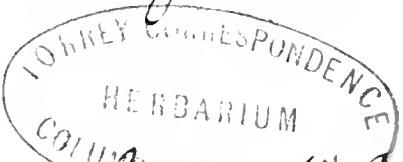
George Thurber



F. T. Hunter
May 19/01

Agricultural College
Lansing, Mich. Oct. 5th 1861.

Dear Doct. Torrey



Your letter nearly two

months ago has been laying on my table waiting for me to feel like answering - or what is more to the point to find time to write. I have determined that it shall not go over another week & though I don't feel much like writing I will follow the advice of Mrs. Chick & "make an effort". Saturday is always a busy day with me - having boys at work in some six different places it takes all attention & no little trouble to keep all strings pulling at once. We feared a frost and have been securing some tons of hay ashes. I unfortunately nearly disabled my right hand by a burn & have not been able to use it freely for some weeks. It is now so that I can write slowly without pain which is a great comfort. To begin at the beginning - I believe that I told you that I should have the department of Horticulture on my hands. This involves the working of some 30 acres

of garden - requiring not only constant personal supervision but much study & thought. Rather a new position for one to be placed in - but despite the long dry droughts the garden has been a success - I work about 20 hours, have then work to lay out & this time to keep account of & all sorts of loose ends to gather up. As if this were not enough for one person, ~~so~~ the change in the course throws botany out for this year & I have two classes in subjects which I care but little about. Natural Philosophy & Mineralogy. Each of these requires study & preparation of illustrations - I take them up at night & often fall asleep with my book in my hand. Things monetary went along smooth in the early part of the season, but now, that so much is required for the war, all in that quarter is uncertainty. We are told that we must wait. Before I ascertained this state of things I was applied to by the College of Pharmacy to lecture this winter. I told Mrs. Ruth I would give them two & a half months out of my three months vacation. They concluded to engage some one who would give them the full course of four months. So I am thrown

out of that source of revenue & of course feel a little anxious to know how money matters will result here. I had quite made up my mind to try to be contented ~~but~~^{in the} there are so many things which ^{CONTRIBUTOR TO THE HERBARIUM OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY} attach me to the place. I have ~~so~~^{so} good friends in the faculty - get along so smoothly with the students & so much work of my own hands has been depended here that I should hate to give it up. But then the money! - we shall see how it will all come out. If they pay I shall be able to pass my vacation in New York where I can live in a small way & do up my enumeration of the grasses. I find that I must do this before I finish the collection. Here it is just impossible to do any botanical work. From seven in the morning until late at night I am thoroughly occupied - we have had quite a sickly season & Dr. Hale & myself have had to give a great deal of time to the hospital department. We usually make our visits together & I keep a private apothecaries' shop & dispense at my own expense. I have had to stop while writing to answer two calls for medicine. We neither of us make any charge as that would give the people claims upon our services we have had abundant dysentery &

one lymphoid fever - ague is so common
that we do not count it. The let alone
treatment is splendid in most everything
but ague. nothing short of Quinine will
stop that. We get daily our news through
the Detroit papers. I just skin them &
wait until I get a two days old paper
before I make up my mind. Michigan
is doing far more in proportion to her
population than New York. Our little
community has given up nine of its best
boys to go under Fremont. I lost some
of my best friends there. I get the
kindest & most touching letters from them.
In addition to other things I drill the
students twice a week - revising my
old military knowledge which had long
ago been cast by as useless. I am glad
that Bert. has a place in the assay office.
I infer from your letter that the Drury
is superintendent of the assay office - If
so I am surprised that he did not make
me an offer of a place - I should
not have accepted it, but after all
the trouble I have had with the thing
it would have been rather gratifying.
When one acts from principle he
must get his own reward in so
doing as he need expect little beyond
that. I have recently taken out a

put up a fine portrait of Fremont
which I have had for a long time
in my drawers. I don't know yet
whether to put it back or not. I
can't help believing that he will come
out all right yet. Engelmann about
two months ago wrote me a most gloomy
account of affairs in St Louis - He seemed
to think that the military politicians
were quite as bad as the ~~de~~^{REDDY CORRESPONDENT} ~~co~~^{co}conists.
He says like yourself that ^{that} study is all
out of the question. ~~Beside~~ Cultivating
"garden sass" to a large extent I have
done a good deal in floriculture.
Once in a while some one comes along
who appreciates such things. I was
quite delighted - before I knew who
they were - by a visit from Gov. & Mrs.
Sergious of New York. Both of whom
seemed to know a deal about flowers
& botany - I regretted that I did not
know who they were until they had
gone - Such people take me back
into the world once more - The plants
I put out this spring did very poorly
on account of the seem dry weather
which followed the planting - A
little *Torreya* which Hogg gave me
survived - like its namesake it likes
not weather - I hope I shall make

it live through the灾害 -
you find so much satisfaction in
making fun of my writing that I
console myself for the difficulty of
writing with a crooked finger in thinking
of the great fund of amusement I
am providing you with - with re-
membrances to all your household
I am most truly

George Threlkeld



[1869.]

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Dear Doctor Torrey-



You're enclosing grass
came duly - but I was unable
to look at it until this evening.
It is Bouteloua aristidoides Thurb.
Druibra — H.B.K.
Eustachia — Kth -
a very small and undeveloped
specimen - It is also Wright's
751, vol. 1848 - & 2017 & 2019 Col.
1851 - you probably have it under
one of these numbers - if not I
can give you specimens collected
by Days - I had heard of your
Death of Martin -

Very sincerely yours

George Thurber

"Reg Graminis"
vide Jon. ms.

